

House Bill 332 (AM)

By: Representatives Coleman of the 97th, Millar of the 79th, Hembree of the 67th, Jones of the 46th, Maxwell of the 17th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-182 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 program weights, maximum class size, and reporting requirements under the "Quality Basic
3 Education Act," so as to provide that each local board of education may set maximum class
4 sizes for high school general education programs under certain conditions; to provide for
5 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 20-2-182 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to program
9 weights, maximum class size, and reporting requirements under the "Quality Basic Education
10 Act," is amended by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (i) as follows:

11 "(2) The State Board of Education shall adopt for each instructional program authorized
12 pursuant to Part 3 of this article except those programs included in paragraph (1) of this
13 subsection the maximum number of students which may be taught by a teacher in an
14 instructional period. For the remedial education, vocational laboratory, alternative
15 education, and early intervention programs, the State Board of Education shall provide
16 for a system average maximum class size that shall not exceed the funding class size by
17 more than 20 percent, unless specifically authorized by the State Board of Education;
18 provided, further, that the system average maximum class size for special education,
19 gifted, and English for speakers of other languages classes shall be set by the State Board
20 of Education. For each instructional program covered under this paragraph, the
21 maximum number of students who may be taught by a teacher in an instructional period
22 shall not exceed the system average maximum class size for the program by more than
23 two students; provided, however, that a system average maximum class size which
24 results in a fractional full-time equivalent shall be rounded up to the nearest whole
25 number; provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to general education
26 programs in mathematics, science, social studies, and language arts for grades 9 through

1 12. Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, each local board of education shall be
2 allowed to exceed maximum class sizes set by the state board pursuant to this paragraph
3 for general education programs in mathematics, science, social studies, and language arts
4 for grades 9 through 12 and may establish such maximum class sizes that shall not exceed
5 the funding class size by more than 40 percent and shall annually report to the state board
6 and to each school council in its school system such class sizes established. For a period
7 not to exceed seven years, beginning with the 2000-2001 school year, local school
8 systems shall be allowed to exceed the maximum class sizes set forth in this subsection
9 in a manner consistent with State Board of Education rules and subsection (k) of this
10 Code section, except for those programs included in paragraph (1) of this subsection
11 beginning with the 2006-2007 school year. The State Board of Education shall lower the
12 current maximum class sizes set by state board rules in effect for the 1999-2000 school
13 year, beginning with the 2000-2001 school year, by an amount so that, beginning with
14 the 2007-2008 school year, State Board of Education rules are in compliance with this
15 subsection; provided, however, that this shall not apply to the programs included in
16 paragraph (1) of this subsection beginning with the 2006-2007 school year."

17 **SECTION 3.**

18 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.